

John Daniel Hastings, M.D.

July 2, 1940 - April 28, 2021

John Daniel “Jack” Hastings, 80, slipped the surly bonds of earth and died peacefully of natural causes on Wednesday, April 28th in Jacksonville, Florida. Jack was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather as well as a friend to all. In addition to his lifelong commitment to helping others, Jack quietly embodied the virtues of sincerity and humility, and perhaps most significantly, grace and humor.

Jack was born to Ralph C. “RC” Hastings, M.D. and Helen Hastings (née Schmidt) in Chicago, Illinois. He attended Loyola Academy high school, Notre Dame University, and St. Louis University School of Medicine, and completed his neurology residency at the Mayo Clinic. He was a man of deep faith, and very proud of his Jesuit education. He came from a long line of physicians dedicated to upholding the Hippocratic oath.

Jack had a distinguished 50-year career as a physician both in neurology and aerospace medicine. He was himself a pilot, and held an enduring love of aviation. He logged thousands of hours of flight time, many in service of underserved communities and his aeromedical work. He passed his love of aviation on to his son Michael, who is currently an accomplished pilot.

In his youth, Jack served as an usher for Andy Frain Ushers in Chicago and loved to tell stories of selling tickets to the Cubs and White Sox games, back

to back, when he worked a double shift. He'd take the "EI" from one stadium to the other all in one day. He and his friend, now brother-in-law, Mike Frain used to head to the Billy Goat Tavern after the Blackhawks games, where Billy Sianis's famous goat, Murphy, would wander the tavern, accepting beers from customers. He was a lifelong fan of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team, and was proud to have gone to the 1985 Superbowl in New Orleans with his son Chris to see the Chicago Bears take home the trophy.

Jack was remarkably accomplished, yet humble and devoted to service. To those close to him, Jack was both serious and mischievous, thoughtful while incisively funny, respectful while irreverent, accepting while challenging, and above all, always kind and compassionate. He loved to laugh. He was exceptionally down-to-earth and unassuming even with all his educational and professional accomplishments, and all the respect and renown he earned. Jack was a respected leader but never stopped learning and growing.

Jack took great care of his family. He had close and meaningful relationships with each of his four children. He adored his grandchildren. He met his former wife, Dr. Barbara Fries, in medical school in 1961, they married in 1965, and shared a neurology practice for 30 years. They enjoyed a lifelong friendship, and spent many dear times together during his recent illness. He deeply valued friends and colleagues, whom he had all over the world. He loved and cherished his rescue dogs, and they him. He showed such incredible courage and strength in overcoming and adapting to devastating health challenges in recent years. He enjoyed living by the ocean in Jacksonville, FL and planned to retire there.

Jack was an incredibly hard worker and was still planning his "retirement". He served his country with distinction in Vietnam, and had a profound love and respect for the veteran community. His fierce love of aviation led him to help

thousands of aviators navigate the difficult requirements to be medically certified to fly. He is responsible for helping to save countless careers of pilots who otherwise might have never flown again. He was an unparalleled pilot advocate when it came to medical matters. Many pilots would say he gave them their wings back.

Jack touched many lives and communities, and his work will live on. What follows is a partial list of his accomplishments and distinctions, recently published by the Aerospace Medical Association (ASMA):

“The award was established to honor Louis H. Bauer, M.D., founder of the Aerospace Medical Association. It is given annually for the most significant contribution in aerospace medicine. It is sponsored by the Mayo Clinic.

John D. Hastings, M.D., was the recipient of the 2016 Louis H. Bauer Founders Award for his dedication to aerospace medicine. Recognized internationally as the undisputed leader in aviation neurology, Dr. Hastings was a Fellow and Past President of the Aerospace Medical Association, and has been a leader in many other professional organizations. Dr. Hastings’ significant contributions to aerospace medicine have been sustained over a more than 30-year period. Throughout his career, he served numerous governmental regulatory authorities, participated in innumerable aerospace medicine scientific meetings, and authored numerous book chapters and journal articles. He was an icon within the international aerospace medicine community. Specifically, being board certified in neurology and aerospace medicine, he served as a senior neurology consultant to the Federal Air Surgeon since 1992, having written over 3,000 opinions regarding pilot aeromedical dispositions. Many airmen’s careers have been salvaged by his recommendations.

In addition to his consultation to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), many pilots sought his consultations privately. Dr. Hastings was a lecturer for the FAA for 32 years, giving presentations to aviation medical examiners (AMEs) initial and recurrent certification. Furthermore, he developed theme seminars on neurology, psychiatry, and neuropsychology. He also served as an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor for the aerospace medicine residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. He has been a Clinical Assistant Professor in Neurology at Oklahoma University College of Medicine in Tulsa since 1979. From 2013-2016, he was also Clinical Associate Professor at the Department of Community Health, Wright State University Boonschoft School of Medicine, Dayton, OH. In addition to clinical aviation medicine and teaching, Dr. Hastings authored the neurology chapters in "Clinical Aviation Medicine," 4th and 5th editions, and for the most recent editions of "Fundamentals of Aerospace Medicine." Furthermore, he co-authored the neurology chapter in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Civil Aviation Manual, Standards and Recommended Procedures. Dr. Hastings earned his M.D. degree at St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, in 1965. He served an internship at Los Angeles County General Hospital in California from 1965-1966, and then a residency in Neurology at the Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education in Rochester, MN, from 1966-1969. Later in his career attended MPH Core Courses for Aerospace Medicine Certification at the Medical College of Wisconsin Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in Milwaukee, WI, from 1996-1997. From 1969 until 1971, he served in the U.S. Army at the 95th Evacuation Hospital in Danang, South Vietnam. After completing his military service, Dr. Hastings went into private practice first at Diagnostic Neurology Ltd., in Park Ridge, IL, and later with Neurology PLLC, Tulsa, OK, and then Neurologic Medicine PLLC in Tulsa. He was the Medical Director of Synaptic Resources, LLC, in Tulsa, and owner of Aerospace Neurology, LLC. He performed professional supervision for intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring for Neurologic Services of Oklahoma, LLC, in Tulsa, Hill Country Monitoring in

Austin, TX, Neurology Services of Florida in Jacksonville, as well as for Southwest Neurodiagnostic Services, LLC, and Hill Country Monitoring, LLC, in Mississippi. Dr. Hastings' awards include the Bronze Star from the U.S. Army, Airman of the Year from the Flying Physicians Association, the Forrest Bird and Harris Awards from the Civil Aviation Medical Association, the President's Award from the Experimental Aircraft Association, and the John A. Tamisiea and Theodore Lyster Awards from the Aerospace Medical Association. He was a member of the American Academy of Neurology, the American Medical Association, the American Society of Neurophysiologic Monitoring, the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine, and the Airline Medical Directors Association."

Jack is survived by daughter Lara Hastings, with husband Mikhail Umorin and granddaughter Alexandra "Sasha" Mikhailovna Hastings-Umorina of Dallas, Texas; Pamela Hastings with grandson Nicholas Augustus Hastings-Sheff of Chicago, Illinois; Michael Hastings with grandson Mitchell James Hastings of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Christopher Hastings with wife Stephanie Owen of Chicago, Illinois; and his former wife, dear friend and mother of his children Dr. Barbara Fries of Chicago, Illinois. He is also survived by his sister Patricia Frain, with husband Michael of Sarasota, Florida; his niece and nephew Kelly Frain and Michael Frain, Jr and their children; and sister Carol Hastings of Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was devoted to his rescue dogs, Hershey and Annie.

Jack will be remembered by his family in eternal peace, love, and gratitude. In lieu of flowers, Jack would have appreciated donations to his chosen cause, The Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. <https://www.redcloudschool.org/>

A private celebration of Jack's life will be held at 2 pm on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at St. Johns Family Funeral Home in St. Augustine. Those who would

like to attend the service remotely can view the service live streamed at <https://iframe.dacast.com/b/156599/c/549019>

Other memorials will be planned by the family and details will be shared at a later date.

Jack's favorite poem:

"Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there, I've
chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air... .
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew —
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high un-trespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of
God." — John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 5. 2:00 PM (ET)

Live Streaming of the services can be viewed at <https://iframe.dacast.com/b/156599/c/549019>

Tribute Wall



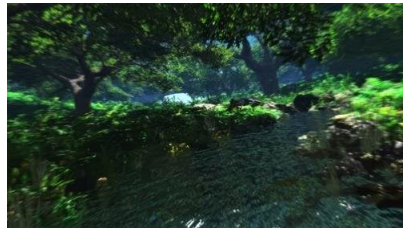
“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Daniel Hastings, M.D.*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - May 06, 2021 at 01:05 PM



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Daniel Hastings, M.D.*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - May 04, 2021 at 05:07 PM



“ *As a pilot for American Airlines and Chairman of our unions' Aeromedical Committee, I personally worked with Jack saving many careers. He was truly a pilot advocate and the greater champion for positive change at the FAA AMCD. I continue his hard and passionate work toward this end and always ask myself how would Jack handle this... Great Man and good friend. RIP Jack*

Capt JD Dorothy - October 05, 2022 at 04:06 PM

GR

“ As just one more of many pilots Dr. Hastings has helped, I am saddened to learn of his passing. His memory will live with me for the rest of my days as the cornerstone of my large team of generous individuals that were able to help me get back in the cockpit after an injury. I hope he can feel my sincere gratitude and respect, and I know his loved ones are fortified by the effects of their personal contact with such a great man. I wish I had learned of his passing in time to show a better representation of my feelings about him.

Glynn Reed - September 20, 2021 at 01:33 PM

JG

Glynn, we are having a celebration of life this Saturday in Tulsa, Oklahoma if you would like to attend in person or virtually. If interested, please contact me at 325 277 6604

Jeannie Gaines - October 13, 2021 at 12:36 PM

PT

“ I am one of those pilots that Dr. Hastings saved. He helped me when there was no other hope. I was so thrilled by his ability to stand up to the FAA bureaucracy. Most every time I get in my plane I think of him. My AME hears about Dr. Hastings every two years. After all these years, I still feel relief and a bit of mirth each time I remember Dr. Hastings' vigor. He is a great man.

Paul Tappen



Paul Tappen - August 05, 2021 at 12:17 PM



“ I just found out about "Dr. Johns" passing. My deepest sympathy and prayers to Barb and the family. I worked with Dr. John for 20 years in his Neurologic Medicine practice. I came to know a very compassionate, caring, dedicated, loyal, hard working doctor. I looked at Dr. John like a second father. When he was ready to leave his Neurologic practice he was so kind to give me time to get my own business started before he left his practice in Neurologic Medicine to focus more on FAA and pilots. My heart is deeply saddened to hear of such a great loss. You will be forever missed. Prayers to Barb, Pam, Laura, Mike, & Chris.

Donna Wilkinson - July 18, 2021 at 10:37 AM

RV

“ all of us will miss such a profoundly kind and intelligent man, i liked so much our friendly talks , roland vermeiren, past president, belgium

roland vermeiren - June 22, 2021 at 07:26 PM

TF

“ *A true friend, professional, and mentor. Jack knew my father, and I was honored to know and work with Jack. His obituary was spot on for every quality of John D. Hastings. Always the healer and problem solver, Jack was a Pilot advocate, but never compromised aviation safety; and there were those Airmen who took out their frustration on Jack when he was placing their health above all else.*

We miss him already. He inspired, encouraged, engaged, always smiled and loved all people.

He gave much more than he received, always educating and seeing the best in people.

To the very end - he agreed to help one of my Airman even though he was retired - John D. Hastings put others before himself.

My wife and I are honored to have known this humble man that was at the top of his game, but always just "Jack" : Baron Pilot extraordinaire, committed servant, dedicated friend, and dog lover.

You have our enduring gratitude and love.

Tom Faulkner - May 30, 2021 at 09:17 PM

DP

“ I first got to know Jack when I was the International Assoc of Military Pilot-Physicians President in 2003. We worked closely together from then on in the Aerospace Medical Assoc in our various roles on the Aerospace Council and Executive Committee. He was a very kind, insightful man; and, an excellent President of the Aerospace Medical Association. His Aerospace Neurology contributions are well known and highly regarded in our broader community. Another commonality with him was his interest in Experimental and Flight Test-- he was an avid Experimental Aircraft Assoc member for years. We often traded stories about the different planes we flew, and the ones we dreamed of flying. Jack was a good soul. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. Blessings on him, all of his family and friends that miss him. He made a difference ! He will be missed dearly.

Dwight Holland, MD, PhD

Dwight Holland, MD, PhD - May 19, 2021 at 10:52 PM

CP

“ CDR (ret.) Andrew Bellenkes, Ph.D., lit a candle in memory of John Daniel Hastings, M.D.



CDR (ret.) Andrew Bellenkes, Ph.D., - May 19, 2021 at 04:56 PM

CP

“ My deepest heartfelt condolences to Jack's family. Jack was a long-time dear friend and colleague for whom I had (and will always have) the greatest respect. His invaluable contributions to aviation medicine were many. He was a true gentleman who unsparingly gave of his knowledge, time and always wise counsel to all who would seek them. Susi and I have been blessed indeed to have known Jack and shall miss him dearly. Rest well, old friend.

- CDR (ret.) Andy Bellenkes, Ph.D.

CDR (ret.) Andrew Bellenkes, Ph.D., - May 19, 2021 at 04:56 PM

AM

“ I was very fortunate to have Dr Hastings in my corner with my tough fight to return to the cockpit, and he was so happy for me when I made it ! What a great man, I'm so grateful to him. Prayers for the family.

Andrew Marckesano - May 19, 2021 at 01:46 PM

JS

“ When I think about Jack, the first thing I do is smile! I first met Jack in 2002 after I published a paper on Neurological issues occurring on passenger jets. Jack sought me out and the next thing I knew his infectious enthusiasm for all things aviation particularly for the pilot perspective rubbed off on me. Over the next 2 decades, Jack was someone I would speak to almost every 1-2 weeks and an enduring friendship was born. I loved his very funny stories, ones that only Jack could tell. I was surprised on hearing of his passing because he had emailed me on an aviation Neurology issue literally the week before. He left us much too soon and I will miss him dearly! I am comforted by his legacy that lives on in the countless number of health care folks(doctors, nurses, pilots that have been touched by his unwavering passion for aviation health. I know he has touched so many lives and I can smile when I look up to the sky because that it is where he clearly found so much joy..

Joseph Sirven, MD

Joseph Sirven - May 08, 2021 at 07:58 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Daniel Hastings, M.D..



May 06, 2021 at 04:32 PM

SG

“ I first met Jack about 15 years ago. He had worked side-by-side with my father for many years as part of their work with the FAA, and when my father retired, I enjoyed the same experience. Jack was one of those rare adults in whom you could always see the underlying 10 year old, full of wonder and excitement and energy, so much so that when I heard of his passing, my first thought was "How could that happen? Jack's only about 50!" And of course the 10 year old was combined with the wise and experienced senior physician - all making him a perfect friend, colleague, and healer. I'll miss his guidance and friendship.

-- Stu Gitlow MD

Stuart Gitlow - May 05, 2021 at 07:27 PM

AH

“ Over the past 30 years Jack and I have shared (or not) opinions on aerospace topics but the interactions have gone much further. Children, politics (cautiously), other aspects of medicine, and life in general. I will miss our conversations, your subtle humor and your insights. The Aerospace community has lost a scholar, pilots a true Oadvocate, and his family a dedicated father and husband, I have lost a true friend.

My condolences to all. You will be missed Jack.

Allen Hauser

Allen Hauser - May 05, 2021 at 02:51 PM

PS

“ Thank you Jack for being a good friend and mentor.

*Phil Scarpa, MD
NASA-Kennedy Space Center
AsMA Past President*

Phil Scarpa - May 05, 2021 at 02:33 PM

MR

“ Thank you for you all the knowledge you shared, all the pilots you have done so much for. You have led the way in the world of aviation and neurology.

Marsha Reekie RN

Marsha Reekie - May 05, 2021 at 01:20 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Life Tributes



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - May 05, 2021 at 10:40 AM

RM

“ I only had the pleasure of knowing Jack for the past 9 years, but he had a great impact on my aeromedical neurology development. In my opinion Jack was the father of modern aeromedical neurology. His aviation and clinical depth and breadth of experience were unmatched. Jack was a valued mentor and friend, always available, always with on-target sage advice. His affable collegiality was exemplary.

Sincere condolences to family and friends. May Jack rest in peace.

Roger Hesselbrock, MD

Roger Hesselbrock, MD - May 05, 2021 at 08:46 AM

MM

“ Since the early 1990s and the days of CAMA board meetings, I have appreciated his mentoring me during those many hours of meetings. Jack's calm and wise demeanor got us through a lot of difficult discussions. I valued his friendship, clinical skills, and common sense practices. He was a valued advocate for all pilots.

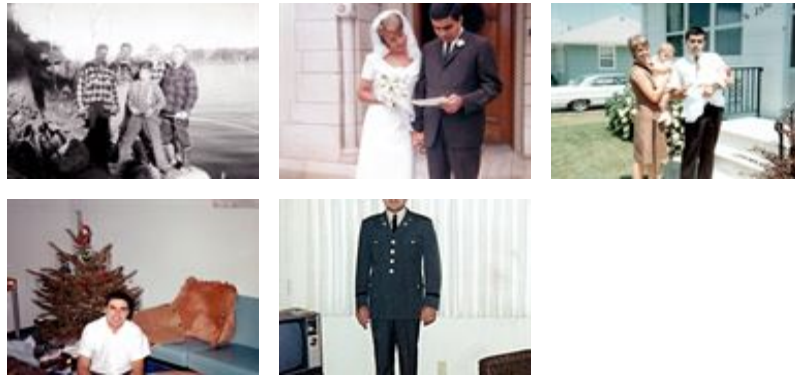
My condolences to all his family and friends and I'll "tip my wings" in his honor.

*Mark C. Eidson, MD
FPA and CAMA Past President*

Mark C. Eidson, MD - May 04, 2021 at 06:17 PM



“ 50 files added to the album Life Tributes



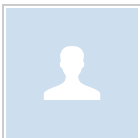
St. Johns Family Funeral Home - May 04, 2021 at 05:05 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Daniel Hastings, M.D..



May 04, 2021 at 02:28 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Daniel Hastings, M.D..



May 04, 2021 at 02:21 PM

LW

“ *Dr. Jack Hastings:*

When I first met him at an ASNM meeting I was immediately impressed by his dedication and efforts to improve the field of intraoperative monitoring. I will miss our discussions, his engaging personality and tremendous wisdom. My deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Lawrence Wierzbowski

Lawrence Wierzbowski - May 04, 2021 at 01:38 PM

CC

“ *Sending my deepest sympathies to the Hastings family. You will be in our prayers and thought. Rest in peace Jack.*

Carol Campbell - Medtronic

Carol Campbell - May 04, 2021 at 01:08 PM

JG

“ *Great to have known you Jack, great doc, great monitorist, great leader for our fields (IONM and aerospace medicine), you will be missed!*

Jeff Gertsch - May 04, 2021 at 12:53 PM

WS

“ I knew Jack since I first arrived at the FAA. I was then fortunate to share an office with him from January 2012 for about 8 months. He was very kind and gave me all of his AME equipment, which I am still using today. I flew with him several times. He was a great pilot. I worked so many neurological cases with him I cannot recall. He was a true pilot advocate. Jack and myself were on the "hot seat" many times at the annual medical forum at OSHKOSH. My wife and I spoke with him only several weeks ago. It is a huge loss to the aerospace medicine community. There are many pilots that will miss his consultations.

Warren Silberman

Warren S. Silberman - May 04, 2021 at 12:12 PM

HM

“ Rest in Peace, Jack. You were a shining example of dedication to your patients and heartfelt passion for aviation neurology. Your depth of knowledge will be forever missed. I thank you for your great advice and encouragement. Glad we were friends until the end. Will miss your sense of humor.

Herminio Cuervo

Herminio Cuervo, MD - May 04, 2021 at 09:32 AM

SO

“ Jack, I will definitely miss your colorful “dad” jokes.



Stephanie O - May 03, 2021 at 07:49 PM

BS

“ I knew Jack for only six years, but I wish I'd known him all my life. He was kind, gentle, respectful, generous with his time and possessed of a humble wisdom which he never pushed on you but which I couldn't get enough of. I considered him a mentor and a friend, as did so many others.

Rest in peace, Jack. I will miss you. May your memory be eternal, and may your loved-ones find comfort in having had you in their lives.

Wings-Level, Forever.

-Basil

Basil Spyropoulos - May 03, 2021 at 05:36 PM

KY

“ What a tremendous gift we have lost and how lucky we were to have known this wonderful man. Dr. Hastings will be missed beyond words, though if he were here, he'd find the words and I have no doubt we'd be laughing. Smile down upon us, my good friend, and please be so kind as to provide us a steer when we need it. I remember our first case together fighting on behalf of the FAA to our last case fighting against the FAA, always championing the right and the good. What fun we've had and what a difference you have made. Our tears will fall and our hearts will hurt but we will remember the good times and hold them even closer. Blue skies.

Kathleen Yodice - May 03, 2021 at 05:08 PM

GM

“ Jack, someday I hope we can have more conversations and debate aerospace medicine. I will miss our talks deeply. Greg and Anne Catherine Pinnell

Gregory Pinnell, MD - May 03, 2021 at 02:22 PM



“ *Kind, gentle, wise fiend and great doctor!!! Jim Rodgers MD*

James Rodgers - May 03, 2021 at 12:24 PM

CH

“ *See you down the road, Jack. You would be SO proud of your kids; their memorial couldn't have been more moving and heartfelt if it was written by a professional writer at the White House (the best, of course...thinking about how you always quibbled about "Le mot précis...the perfect word; you and Prince Phillip! How I loved that about you; will miss that, but you are seared into my psyche "wherever you are." Perhaps you're on that cloud reading your newspaper? Who knows? In addition to your umpteen world accomplishment, you were a world-class father, husband and friend. You and your world class kindred spirit (Barb) don't come any better. To borrow from Shakespeare, "And this be error and upon me proved, then no man ever loved." How sorely you are missed. My greatest hope is that I will, indeed, "See you down the road."*

Carol Hastings - May 02, 2021 at 04:27 PM